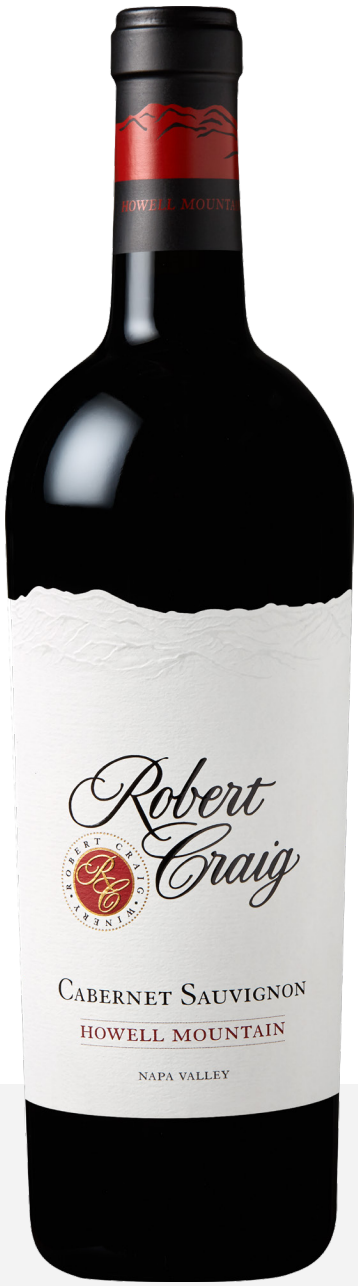
Cabernet Sauvignon
ELEVATED™

Robert Craig Winery

2022 HOWELL MOUNTAIN
CABERNET SAUVIGNON



Our 2022 Howell Mountain Estate Cabernet is composed of fruit primarily from the rocky Aiken volcanic soils of our 9.5 acre Winery Estate Vineyard with the addition of old vine lots from the 26-acre Candlestick Ridge Vineyard. Both vineyards sit at 2300' along the summit ridge. Yields in 2022 were once again sparse due to a rare frost event at flower and a heat spike in early September.

High skin-to-juice ratios on our Howell Mountain Estate and Candlestick Ridge vineyards led to wines of exceptional color and depth. The heat that was a problem on the valley floor in 2022 helped to ripen the bunches on Howell Mountain in what had been a cool, late vintage to that point. The combination of mature vines, high elevation and early pruning led to a successful vintage at RCW despite the heat spike. The 2022 Howell Mountain delivers a purity of volcanic fruit expression that is more reminiscent of top flight modern Bordeaux rather than typical Napa Valley. Along with the focused fruit expression there is a reliable backbone that allows our Howell Mountain Cabernet to retain its nerve, energy and lift. This is not an overripe clodhopper, it's a young beauty that needs a little cellar time. Enjoy this rarity with a good decant at a cool temperature or let it sleep peacefully for as long as you can wait in the cellar.

Upon release, there is a rush of exotic black and red thorny vine fruits that fill the mid palate and linger on the long finish. The 2022 is a laser focused display of Howell Mountain. Crushed red rocks, cassis and mountain wildflowers all emanate from the glass. The wine possesses an integration and suppleness that bodes well for a long life in the cellar.

VINEYARDS

Winery Estate Vineyard

- Planted in 1997 on 110R rootstock; red volcanic & tufa soils
- Yields average a meager 2.1 tons/acre giving fruit a rare power and expression of site
- Soils are especially shallow, even for Howell Mountain

Candlestick Ridge Estate Vineyard

- Pure, white volcanic tufa soils provide excellent drainage while ensuring low yields and deeply flavored wine grapes

VINTAGE

- In 2022, the vines continued their recovery from the fires of 2020. A cold, wet Spring and Winter helped to restore balance to the vines after years of drought.
- Precision winemaking was crucial, considering the Labor Day weeklong heat spike.
- Our vineyard management team did a masterful job in 2022 with late pruning delaying the development of the fruit to be resistant to excessive heat in September. Exactly the case in the vintage. Along with more canopy for shade and lower temperatures at 2300', 2022 was a success at RCW.

BLEND 96% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Malbec, 2% Merlot

HARVEST DATES 9/12/2022-9/11/2022

TA 6.0g/L PH 3.73

ALCOHOL 14.8%

BARREL AGING 18 months in 75% new French oak. Unfiltered & unfined.

BOTTLING DATE 5/24/24

CASES PRODUCED 1627

PRICE CA SRP $118.00

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